



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®

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July 21, 2011

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: IB Docket No. 11-109

Dear Secretary Dortch:

The American Farm Bureau Federation believes that high-speed broadband services have great potential to bring opportunity to rural Americans, but those opportunities should not jeopardize the global positioning system (GPS). Farm Bureau represents more than 6 million families, many of whom rely on GPS as an integral part of their farming business through the use of precision agriculture.

Precision agriculture allows farmers and ranchers to run efficient, economical and environmentally conscious operations. Farmers use GPS for accurate mapping of field boundaries, roads and irrigation systems; for precision planting; and for targeting the application of fertilizer and chemicals that combat weeds and crop diseases. GPS also allows farmers to work despite low-visibility field conditions such as rain, dust, fog and darkness.

It is the accuracy of GPS that makes it useful to farm and ranch operations. Disruption to GPS has the potential to reduce farm profitability by raising production costs and affecting farm and ranch operations.

Farm Bureau urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to ensure there is no interference with GPS receivers prior to granting LightSquared permission to operate its high-powered cellular base stations. It is also important that the cost of resolving this issue not be passed along to farmers and ranchers through higher GPS or equipment costs.

Farm Bureau appreciates the work of the FCC to provide rural America with high-speed broadband services. While the deployment of broadband services is important to economic development, better education and improved health services in rural America, the use of precision agriculture is also vital to America's farmers and ranchers as they continue to feed, fuel and clothe the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Maslyn'.

Mark Maslyn
Executive Director
Public Policy